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Playing for Peace in Cyprus



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth came together this week for a unique summer camp experience organized by the ACT-funded Playing for Peace project. The camp brought together youth

from both communities, especially targeting those from rural and low-income areas where opportunities for sport and bi-communal exposure are vastly limited. The camp, which took place in the village of Agros with a one-day field trip to the Turkish Cypriot community, was largely successful in reinforcing skills and lessons learned during the year-round Playing for Peace program in Cyprus. The intensive nature of the camp, during which the participants not only played sports, but also ate, lodged, and socialized together, helped to deepen the lasting impact of the program. The goal of the Playing for Peace project is to foster a sense of cooperation and to provide a positive setting for intercommunal interaction and relationship building.



"Peace Players" having fun and building relationships through sports.



Saving Scarce Water and the Environment Made Easy with SAVE Tip Sheets

Using the results of pilot projects in mulching, composting and xeriscaping (water-wise landscaping), the USAID Supporting Activities that Value the Environment project has developed several easy-to-read, practical "tip sheets" for use by Cypriot households interested in turning waste into fertilizer or in growing a beautiful garden without much water. These one-page guides to mulching, composting, and xeriscaping are now available in English and Turkish to anyone wishing to do their part to save water through informed practices in and around the home and garden. Water rationing measures have now been instituted across the island; every drop counts!



The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises

Forty-one percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Turkish Cypriot community do not use computers and a majority of SMEs have a difficult time finding people with the IT skills they need. These and the other findings of a survey conducted on behalf of the Cyprus Turkish Information Technology Association, were the topic of a lively session on July 17 where the board of the CTITA and more than forty participants discussed the IT sector in Cyprus, its potential as a driver of economic growth and the limitations it faces.



Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

Given the dire and deteriorating water situation, the results of SAVE's soil moisture tests in several agricultural areas will be formulated into a poster and brochure to be used to assist farmers in improving pumping activities in rural areas. Work continues on several mentored projects related to the GIS/land use planning activity. Work on the walkway to protect the mosaics at Soli began with safety and other training for the contractor the week of July 20. The contractor has begun to build the footings that will form the base of the walkways.

Action for Cooperation and Trust

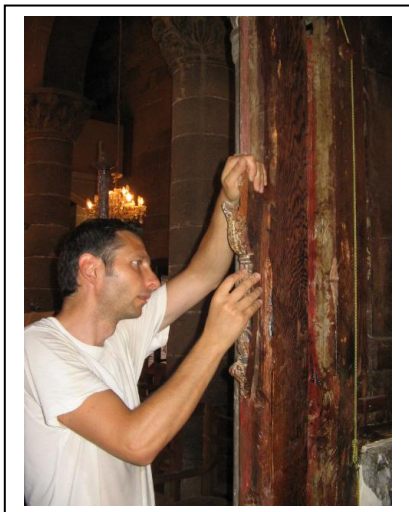
July is the height of ACT's bicommunal summer camps. The ACT-funded "Volunteerism Lessons for Beginners" camp finished Thursday. They had 45 participants, both GC and TC as well as Irish (additional funding came from the EU). The KAYAD "Together Anything is Possible" camp also recently finished after 3 days in Paphos and 3 days in Kyrenia and the Doves Olympic Movement camp, and the "Building a Common Future through Sport and Education" camp also wrapped up this week. The Cypriot Puzzle exhibition continues, with showings in Famagusta and in the historic Kyrenia castle next month.

Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

REAP continues to support the Energy Professional's Association (EPA) through helping them create contacts with the news media. The EPA now has a monthly column in a technology magazine that is distributed to SMEs. In addition, the EPA recently met with journalists of two Turkish Cypriot newspapers to discuss the possibility of a monthly or biweekly column written by members of the EPA. The EPA's communications committee also created a blog for postings by EPA members.

*President of
the EPA
meets with
a journalist*





The visiting Italian conservation team finished its consolidation and stabilization work on the seventeenth century iconostasis in St. Mamas Cathedral in Morphou.

News from Nicosia

July 25

President Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat meet to evaluate the work of the Working Groups and Technical Committees.

The USAID/Cyprus Biweekly Newsletter will resume in September.

Have a nice summer!

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.